

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1-11 are currently under consideration in this application, with Claims 1 and 9 being independent. Claims 4, 5 and 7-11 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 12-17 are cancelled herein without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 1 and 9 are amended herein to more clearly recite the features of the present invention. It is submitted that support for these amendments can be found at least in Claim 12 (substrate is paper) and in the specification in Examples 1-3, especially at page 8, lines 8-11 (consisting of thermoplastic latex resin). Claim 7 is amended to improve its form. It is submitted that no new matter has been added by the amendments herein.

Claims 1-3, 6 and 12-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Hirose, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,203,899) taken alone or in view of either of Malhotra (U.S. Patent No. 6,180,238) or Cousin, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,554,181). Applicant respectfully disagrees with these rejections as applied to the claims as amended herein.

Before addressing the merits of the rejections, Applicant believes it will be helpful to review some features and advantages of the present invention. The present invention, as recited in Claim 1, relates to a recording medium comprising a paper substrate having two surfaces, on both of which are provided an ink receiving layer containing an inorganic pigment and an outermost surface layer consisting of thermoplastic latex resin, in this order. The outermost latex surface layer forms a transparent film upon heating of the recording medium. Withdrawn Claim 9 relates to a print wherein an image is formed on at least one of the ink

receiving layers. The present invention prevents a recording medium from curling after it has been recorded. Curling is prevented, irrespective of the environment in which the recording medium is left, by providing a layer consisting of thermoplastic latex resin on an ink receiving layer formed on both sides of a substrate, and heating and filming the layer consisting of thermoplastic latex resin after forming an image on the ink receiving layer. In Applicant's view, the cited references do not teach or suggest the claimed invention.

Hirose, et al. is not seen to teach or suggest at least two features of the claimed invention: (1) providing an ink receiving layer on both sides of a substrate, and (2) providing a layer consisting of thermoplastic latex resin capable of being transparent after film formation on the ink receiving layer.

Cousin, et al. discloses a recording sheet comprising a substrate having a recording surface containing a cationic polymer (or latex) and a water soluble polyvalent metal salt. Applicant notes, however, that this reference discloses preparation of a recording paper by applying an aqueous solution of the cationic polymer (or latex) and salt to one or both surfaces of a paper, but that it does not teach or suggest providing a layer consisting of thermoplastic latex resin on an ink receiving layer, as claimed in the present invention. This is demonstrated by the disclosure of Cousin, et al. at column 6, lines 42 to 44, which states that: "Recording paper is most conveniently and economically prepared by applying an aqueous solution of the cationic polymer and salt to one or both surfaces of a paper in the papermaking process after sheet formation --that is after the sheet is capable of sustaining its own weight."

Malhotra discloses a recording medium comprising a substrate and an ink receiving layer containing particular compounds, and discloses that coating layers are coated on both sides of a substrate (column 38, lines 61 to 62). This reference, however, is not seen to teach or suggest providing a layer consisting of thermoplastic latex resin on an ink receiving layer, as claimed in the present invention.


Applicant concludes that Hirose, et al., Malhotra and Cousin, et al., whether taken alone or in the combinations proposed by the Examiner, do not teach or suggest all the features of the claimed invention, in particular, the feature that the outermost surface layer consists of thermoplastic latex resin. Thus, withdrawal of the Section 103 rejections is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1 and 9. The dependent claims are allowable for the reasons given with respect to Claim 1, and because they recite features that are patentable in their own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the claims are now believed to be in allowable form. Therefore, rejoinder of withdrawn Claims 4, 5 and 7-11 and early passage to issue are respectfully solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C.
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Respectfully submitted,



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